

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 31, 2003 (Paper No. 7). Claims 9 and 10 are in the application, of which both are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant herewith makes of record a series of telephonic interviews conducted with the Examiner during February and March, 2003. In those interviews, the Examiner requested amendments to the claims so as to specify that the ink storage tank is not mounted in the carriage, in conformity with the disclosed embodiments of the invention. Applicant agreed to such an amendment, and the amendment has now been effected above, by insertion of the words "off said carriage" in each of Claims 9 and 10.

The Examiner further requested amendments to the claims so as to specify that temperature detection is made at the ink storage tank. Applicant declined to make such an amendment, and pointed out that the specification provides clear support for temperature detection at any point in a route from the ink storage tank to the head. The Examiner agreed that the specification provided support for a wide range of locations for temperature detection, and withdrew this request.

Finally, the Examiner indicated that he was considering a rejection based on U.S. Patent 4,544,931 (Watanabe). The instant Office Action (Paper No. 7) includes such a rejection, which is therefore addressed below.

Turning to the Office Action, Claim 11, which had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding the correctness of the rejection.

Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Watanabe. The rejection is respectfully traversed, as set forth in more detail below.

The invention concerns control methods for an ink jet recording apparatus in which an ink storage tank supplies ink to a recording head mounted on a carriage. The carriage reciprocally scans across the surface of a recording medium. According to one aspect of the invention, the scanning speed is lowered when the temperature of the ink in a supply tube from the ink storage tank to the recording head is lower than a reference temperature (Claim 9), or a non-recording time during which no ink is discharged from the recording head is increased when temperature of ink in the supply tube is lower than a reference temperature (Claim 10).

Thus, in broad terms, the invention concerns control based on temperature of ink in an ink supply tube.

Watanabe discloses that a discharge frequency is adjusted in accordance with a detection of ink temperature. However, Watanabe detects temperature of ink in the recording head. Watanabe does not detect temperature of ink in a supply tube which supplies ink from an off-carriage ink storage tank to a recording head.

Accordingly, since Watanabe fails to disclose that ink temperature is detected in an ink supply tube, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection over Watanabe should be withdrawn.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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